



10:30 am Worship Service  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024



GATHERING

Prelude: The strife is o'er – arr. Susan T. Nelson

Welcome & Announcements

Vote of Thanks

Response

+Call to Worship

We have gathered this morning to worship God,  
who raised Christ from the dead.

**We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.**

**We share by water in his saving death.**

**A new creation comes to life and grows.**

**Alleluia!**

This week in Charlotte, 751 delegates are gathered to make laws for our  
United Methodist Church.

**Hosanna! Lord have mercy!**

**And Hallelujah! Praise be to God!**

On Day one, Bishop Bickerton asked the delegates:

Are you willing to move forward in a spirit of hope,  
and embrace a season of reformation,

commit to the revitalization of The United Methodist Church,  
and work for a culture marked by compassion,  
courage, and companionship?"

If not, maybe you are in the wrong place!

**A new creation comes to life and grows,**

**As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.**

**Alleluia!**

On Day two, Bishop Holston reminded the delegates  
to embrace the radical, world-transforming love  
given so freely by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

"When the world shouts hate; help us to love.

When we feel broken, betrayed, or rejected; help us to love.

Even when it seems impossible or doesn't make sense; help us to love."

**We share by baptism's water in Christ's saving death.**

**Reborn, we share with Christ an Easter life.**

**Alleluia!**

Delivering *The Young People's Address*, Alejandra Salemi told the delegates:

"If you can't have hope right now, that is OK,

I will have enough hope for the both of us.

God's kin'dom is out there waiting to be built."

**A new creation comes to life and grows.**

**As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.**

**Listen for the Universe restored and whole singing.**

**Alleluia!**

+Entrance Hymn: We know that Christ is raised (UMH 610)

+Opening Prayer

## WORD

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40 (pew Bible p.127)

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

+Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (UMH 306 Refrain)



+Gospel: John 15:1-8 (pew Bible p. 109)

Hear what the Spirit says to the church.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

+Gospel Acclamation

*Children may come forward for the Time with Young Disciples.*

Time with Young Disciples

Sermon

## RESPONSE

Hymn: This is the Spirit's entry now (UMH 608)

Prayers of the People

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Loving God: **We give you thanks.**

The Lord's Prayer (UMH 895)

+The Peace  
Offertory Anthem: I am the true vine - Peter Aston  
+Presentation Hymn: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow (UMH 94)  
+Offertory Prayer

## SENDING

+Sending Hymn: Go, make of all disciples (UMH 571)  
+Benediction  
+Benediction Response: The Lord bless you and keep you – Peter Lutkin  
Postlude: Fugue/Finale on *Lancashire* – Kevin Hildebrand

+ stand, as able

\*see text below

UMH = red United Methodist Hymnal

TFWS = black The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement

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### Worship Leadership

**Preacher:** Rev. Grace Imathiu

**Liturgist:** Omando Bastian, Colin McDonald

**Scripture Reader:** Christine Taylor

**Acolyte:** Lola C.

**Cross Bearer:** Bruce Greene

**Time with Young Disciples:** Pastor Grace

**Minister of Music & Organist:** Dr. Brian Schoettler

**Music Assistant:** Cody Michael Bradley

**Chancel Choir**

**Handbell Choir**

**Ushers:** Ed Webler, Ivy Joe Kuruvila, Pam Johnson, Marianne, and Dave Griebler

*The altar flowers are given today in honor of Hazel Barnett's birthday by her daughter Carol.*

*First Church celebrates Communion (Eucharist) every Sunday: in the Sanctuary at the 10:30 am service on the first Sunday of the month and in Tittle Chapel at 11:45 am on all the other Sundays. All are invited.*

### Anthem Text

I am the true vine,  
and my Father keeps the vineyard.  
Every branch that beareth fruit,  
God purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit.

I am the true vine,  
ye are the branches.  
Those who abideth in me, and I in them,  
the same bringeth forth much fruit.

Herein is my Father glorified,  
that ye bear much fruit;  
so shall ye be my disciples.

As the Father hath loved me,  
so have I loved you:  
Continue ye in my love.

This is my commandment,  
That ye love one another,  
as I have loved you.  
(John 15: 1-2, 5, 8-9, 12)

# 610 We Know That Christ Is Raised

*Unison*

1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2. We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3. A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.  
 The un - i - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

# 306 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

The musical score consists of two staves, a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the treble staff, with each syllable aligned with a note. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

WORDS: Anon. Latin, 1695; trans. by Francis Pott, 1861

MUSIC: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, 1591; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861

VICTORY  
888 with Alleluias

## This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

1. This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the  
 2. Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that  
 3. Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for

wa - ter and the word, the cross of Je - sus  
 we must die each day, to rise a - gain by  
 your bap - tis - mal power that wash - es us through

on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
 his de - sign as fol - lowers of his way.  
 all our days. Lord, cleanse a - gain this hour.

WORDS: Thomas E. Herbranson, 1972 (Rom. 6:3-4)  
 MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

AZMON  
 CM

# 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

*Harmony*

God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

*Unison*

lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

*Harmony*

Je-sus Christ, whose power up-lifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it!

*Unison*

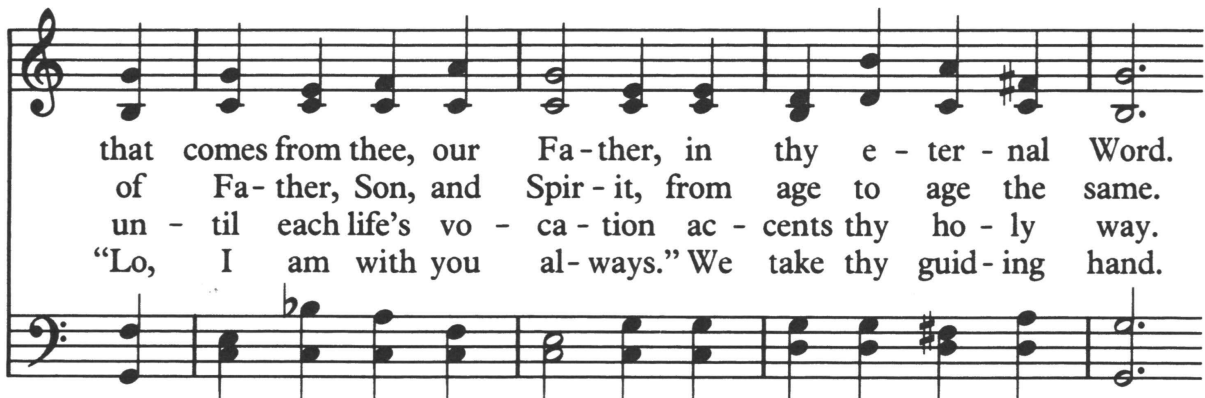
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!



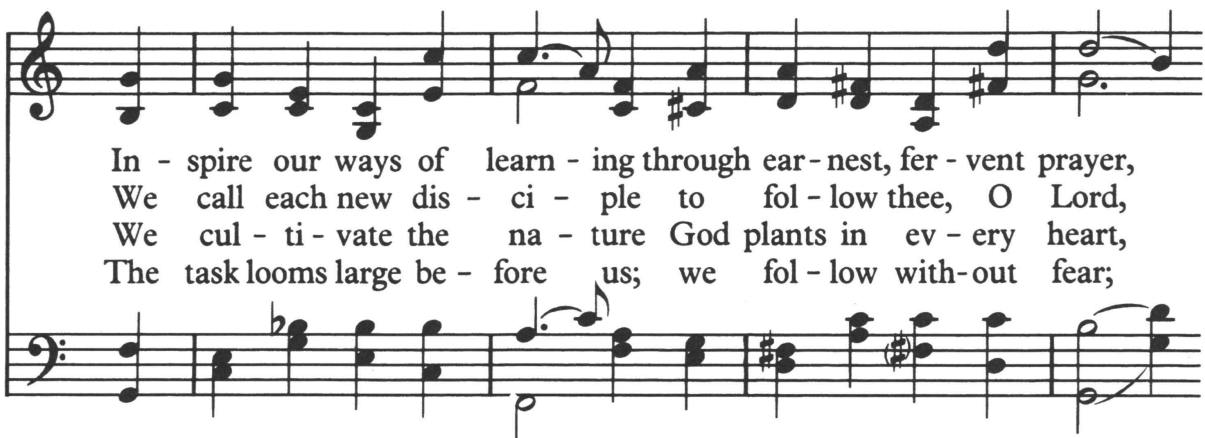
## Go, Make of All Disciples



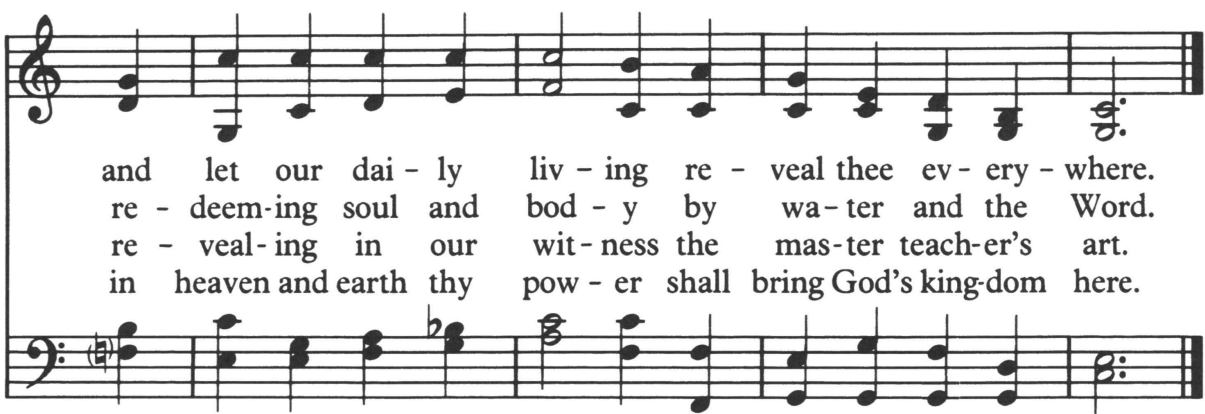
1. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We hear the call, O Lord,  
 2. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples," bap - tiz - ing in the name  
 3. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We at thy feet would stay  
 4. "Go, make of all dis - ci - ples." We wel - come thy com - mand.



that comes from thee, our Fa - ther, in thy e - ter - nal Word.  
 of Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, from age to age the same.  
 un - til each life's vo - ca - tion ac - cents thy ho - ly way.  
 "Lo, I am with you al - ways." We take thy guid - ing hand.



In - spire our ways of learn - ing through ear - nest, fer - vent prayer,  
 We call each new dis - ci - ple to fol - low thee, O Lord,  
 We cul - ti - vate the na - ture God plants in ev - ery heart,  
 The task looms large be - fore us; we fol - low with - out fear;



and let our dai - ly liv - ing re - veal thee ev - ery - where.  
 re - deem - ing soul and bod - y by wa - ter and the Word.  
 re - veal - ing in our wit - ness the mas - ter teach - er's art.  
 in heaven and earth thy pow - er shall bring God's king - dom here.